

CLAIMS

We claim:

1 1. A method for maintaining synchronization of ledger
2 accounts between a back-end procurement system and a front-
3 end requisition and catalog system, comprising the steps of:

4 associating a plurality of companies within a company
5 group, the companies within said group using the same
6 chart of accounts;

7 maintaining a chart of accounts in said procurement
8 system;

9 periodically extracting from said chart of accounts,
10 account identification indicia and descriptive
11 information for a given company;

12 communicating said indicia and information to said
13 requisition and catalog system;

14 at said requisition and catalog system, storing said
15 indicia and information in a data store of valid
16 general ledger accounts associated with said company
17 group for said given company.

1 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

2 associating commodity codes with said account
3 identification indicia; and

4 pushing commodity code/account identification
5 associations to all other companies in the company
6 group of said given company.

1 3. The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of:

2 responsive to a user request for a requisition of a
3 commodity, providing a selection list of valid account
4 codes and descriptions authorized for purchase by users
5 from companies within said company group.

1 4. A procurement accounting system, comprising:

2 a back-end procurement system;

3 a front-end requisition and catalog system;

4 a first chart of accounts store maintained in said
5 procurement system;

6 a second chart of accounts maintained in said
7 requisition and catalog system;

8 an extract utility at said procurement system for
9 periodically extracting from said first chart of
10 accounts, account identification indicia and
11 descriptive information for a given company;

12 an update utility at said requisition and catalog
13 system for associating said account identification
14 indicia with commodity codes and company group codes;
15 and

16 a data store for storing said indicia and information.

1 5. The system of claim 4, further comprising:

2 a company group table for storing company identifiers
3 associated with each of a plurality of company group
4 codes.

1 6. The system of claim 5, said update utility further for
2 pushing to all companies within a company group code the
3 associations of commodity codes and account identification
4 indicia entered for a given company within said company
5 group codes.

1 7. The system of claim 6, further comprising:

2 an output device responsive to a user request for a
3 purchase of a commodity for displaying a selection list
4 of valid account codes and descriptive information for
5 said company group code.

1 8. A program storage device readable by a machine,
2 tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by a
3 machine to perform method steps for maintaining
4 synchronization of ledger accounts between a back-end
5 procurement system and a front-end requisition and catalog

6 system, said method steps comprising:

7 associating a plurality of companies within a company
8 group, the companies within said group using the same
9 chart of accounts;

10 maintaining a chart of accounts in said procurement
11 system;

12 periodically extracting from said chart of accounts,
13 account identification indicia and descriptive
14 information for a given company;

15 communicating said indicia and information to said
16 requisition and catalog system;

17 at said requisition and catalog system, storing said
18 indicia and information in a data store of valid
19 general ledger accounts associated with said company
20 group code for said given company.

1 9. A computer program product or computer program element
2 for maintaining synchronization of ledger accounts between a
3 back-end procurement system and a front-end requisition and

4 catalog system according to method steps comprising:

5 associating a plurality of companies within a company
6 group, the companies within said group using the same
7 chart of accounts;

8 maintaining a chart of accounts in said procurement
9 system;

10 periodically extracting from said chart of accounts,
11 account identification indicia and descriptive
12 information for a given company;

13 communicating said indicia and information to said
14 requisition and catalog system;

15 at said requisition and catalog system, storing said
16 indicia and information in a data store of valid
17 general ledger accounts associated with said company
18 group code for said given company.